

1. The following "prior art" is considered by the examiner to be the most relevant of record:

A) US Patent #7,024,677 to Snyder et al:

e.g., SEE: Figure 11; and the associated description thereof [@ lines 45-67 of column 23 and lines 1-57 of column 24 (particularly, lines 34-56 of column 24).

2. It is the examiner's position that the invention of the instant application differs from the "prior art" cited above for at least the reasons addressed in the instant disclosure [i.e., @ paragraphs 0006 and 0007 of the corresponding PG Pub (#2008/0231758)]. As such, the Examiner's Amendment set forth in paragraph 3 of this Office action was made, in part, to clearly set forth this cited difference.

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert B. Levy on 6/8/2011 (& confirming communication of 6/16/2011).

A) Claim 1 has been changed to read:

--1. A method of controlling at least two production devices for producing a show, comprising the steps of:

establishing a plurality of states of the at least two production devices, each established state corresponding to a different operation that is performed by at least one of the two devices;

storing the states as corresponding memory objects which objects are to be sequentially executed during a production sequence;

executing one of the stored memory objects causing the at least two production devices to perform the corresponding operations, which results in the generation of a scene;

responsive to the execution of the memory object, associating the memory object with at least two physically displaceable actuators on a physical control panel wherein, displacing a respective one of the displaceable actuators, causes the operation of a respective one of the at least two production devices to be modified.--;

B) In claim 2, lines 1-2, "the actuating step further comprising the step of actuating" has been changed to read --one of the at least two production devices comprises--;

C) In claim 3, lines 1-2, "the actuating step further comprising the step of actuating" has been changed to read --one of the at least two production devices comprises--;

D) In claim 4, lines 1-2, "the actuating step further comprising the step of actuating" has been changed to read --one of the at least two displaceable actuators comprises--;

E) In claim 5, lines 1-2, "the actuating step further comprising the step of actuating" has been changed to read --one of the at least two displaceable actuators comprises--;

F) In claim 6, lines 1-2, "the actuating step further comprising the step of actuating a" has been changed to read --the step of displacing further comprises displacing ones of the--;

G) Claim 17 has been changed to read:

--17. An apparatus for controlling at least two production devices for producing a television show, comprising:

a processor for establishing a plurality of states of the at least two production devices, each established state corresponding to a different operation that is performed by at least one of the two devices;

a memory for storing the states as corresponding memory objects which objects are to be sequentially executed during a production sequence;

the processor for executing one of the stored memory objects causing the at least two production device to perform the corresponding operations, which results in the generation of a scene;

responsive to the execution of the memory object, the processor associating the memory object with at least two physically displaceable actuators on a physical control panel wherein, displacing a respective one of the displaceable actuators, causes the operation of a respective one of the at least two production device to be modified.--

H) In claim 18, line 2, "the actuator" has been changed to read --one of the at least two production devices--; and

I) In claim 19, line 2, "the actuator" has been changed to read --one of the at least two production devices comprises--;

J) In claim 20, line 2, "the actuator" has been changed to read --one of the actuators comprises--;

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record at least fails to show or fairly suggest:

a) A step/memory for storing a plurality of established states of at least two production devices as respective memory objects, wherein each state corresponds to a different operation that is performed by at least one of the two production devices to produce a scene; and

b) A step/processor for associating an executed one of the memory objects with at least two displaceable actuators of a control panel which, when displaced, causes the corresponding operation of a respective one of the two production device to be modified;

as set forth in the context of each of the independent claims (1 and 17).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID E. HARVEY whose telephone number is (571) 272-7345. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 6:00AM to 3PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Peter-Anthony Pappas, can be reached on (571) 272-7646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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